



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State

To: Potential 2012 Qualified Political Party

From: Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State

Thank you for your inquiry about qualifying a political party for the 2012 election cycle.

Please see below and attached information about qualifying a political party.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State, Elections and Government Services at (406) 444-5346 or soselections@mt.gov or visit our website at sos.mt.gov.

You may also wish to contact the Commissioner of Political Practices at (406) 444-2942 for campaign finance information.

Links: [Political Party Qualification Petition](#)
[Affidavit of Signature Gatherer](#)
[2012 Candidate Calendar](#)
[Title 13 Election Laws](#)



Information for Political Party Qualification
Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch
Elections and Government Services
soselections@mt.gov • www.sos.mt.gov

◆ **Filing Deadlines** ([13-10-601](#), MCA)

- March 5, 2012 Deadline to submit signed petitions to county election administrators. (Consistent with [13-10-503](#) MCA, if there are insufficient signatures on the petition submitted by the March 5, 2012 deadline, additional signatures may be submitted to the county election office before 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2012)
- March 12, 2012 Deadline for candidates to file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy, and pay filing fee (unless indigent) with appropriate filing officer

◆ **Signature Requirements** ([13-10-203](#), [13-10-502](#) and [13-10-504](#), MCA)

- According to [13-10-601](#), MCA, the number of signatures required for ballot access is 5,000, which must include the registered voters in at least 34 of the legislative districts equal to 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for governor at the last general election in those districts (*or 150 electors in those districts, whichever is less*).

See the following page for specific numbers of required signatures in each legislative house district.

◆ **Other Information**

- A current list of qualified political parties is at sos.mt.gov/Elections/Parties.
- While there is no earliest date to submit party qualification petition signatures to county election administrators, the candidate declaration form cannot be filed with the appropriate filing officer before January 12, 2012.
- If the party qualifies for ballot access, the deadline by which party candidates must file their filing form with the required filing fee is March 12, 2012. See [13-10-503](#), MCA. A candidate who files as an indigent candidate is not required to pay the filing fee, but must file petition signatures.
- Under [13-10-602](#), MCA, a political party and its regularly nominated candidates, members, and officers have the sole and exclusive right to the use of the party name. A candidate for office may not use any word of the name of any other political party or organization other than that by which the candidate is nominated.



2012 Political Party Qualification Requirements by House District

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch

Elections and Government Services

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House District	Votes by House District for Successful 2008 Gubernatorial Candidates	Minimum of 5% Per District* (*or 150 if 150 is less than 5%, 13-10-601, MCA. Parties must collect at least the minimum in 34 house districts)	House District	Votes by House District for Successful 2008 Gubernatorial Candidates	Minimum of 5% Per District* (*or 150 if 150 is less than 5%, 13-10-601, MCA. Parties must collect at least the minimum in 34 house districts)
1	2536	127	51	2559	128
2	2580	129	52	2888	145
3	2951	148	53	2789	140
4	3817	150	54	2584	130
5	3063	150	55	3432	150
6	3682	150	56	3395	150
7	2547	128	57	3552	150
8	2645	133	58	3102	150
9	3512	150	59	3366	150
10	3400	150	60	2869	144
11	3622	150	61	2879	144
12	2992	150	62	3435	150
13	3139	150	63	4237	150
14	3290	150	64	4696	150
15	3008	150	65	3107	150
16	2686	135	66	4252	150
17	2622	132	67	3871	150
18	3311	150	68	2453	123
19	3182	150	69	3441	150
20	2668	134	70	3967	150
21	2965	149	71	3384	150
22	2672	134	72	2534	127
23	2523	127	73	3508	150
24	1550	78	74	3951	150
25	3645	150	75	3656	150
26	2753	138	76	2988	150
27	2452	123	77	3540	150
28	2762	139	78	3109	150
29	2618	131	79	3616	150
30	2533	127	80	3651	150
31	2768	139	81	3505	150
32	2673	134	82	3546	150
33	2627	132	83	2652	133
34	2521	127	84	3202	150
35	2968	149	85	2557	128
36	2935	147	86	4032	150
37	2323	117	87	3015	150
38	2625	132	88	3298	150
39	2261	114	89	3417	150
40	2724	137	90	3507	150
41	2089	105	91	3375	150
42	2710	136	92	4587	150
43	2968	149	93	5093	150
44	2771	139	94	4499	150
45	2434	122	95	4161	150
46	3595	150	96	3790	150
47	3276	150	97	4567	150
48	2887	145	98	4718	150
49	2580	129	99	4864	150
50	2865	144	100	3148	150